



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *107th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2002

Senate

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. CARPER. When I was on active duty in the Navy, I was 21 years old and served until I was 25. We served three tours in Southeast Asia. Our aircraft was the P-3 which we used to track Soviet nuclear submarines in the oceans of the world. When we were in Southeast Asia, our job was to track shipping traffic in and out of Vietnam. I flew a lot of low-level missions. I loved the Navy. The Senator loved the Navy as well. I served for 23 years active and reserve duty. Four years before that, I was a Navy ROTC midshipman. I loved the mission. I was young. I had no family. I could not wait to get in that plane. I could not wait to take off, and I loved being part of my squadron.

This was a time in my young life when

we felt we were invincible. We knew we weren't, but we sure felt that we were. I served the country, as I know you did, because I loved my country. I would do it all over again if given the opportunity.

If I could ask one question to the chairman and manager of the bill, then I will stop. I listened, when I was presiding, to the chairman explaining the amendment and explaining how this benefit would be paid for. I have to tell you, I did not understand the rationale for offering this amendment outside of the bill, why it was not included as part of the bill. I did not understand why it is subject to a budget point of order.

Would the chairman explain how we propose to pay for this benefit? That is my question: How do we propose to pay for it?